

BIBLE STUDY HISTORY

Brenda Covini

1991-2002

After attending an interfaith Bible Study in MA., and moving to Tampa in 1989, I sorely missed the classes and wanted more. Since the 70's reading and listening to and how our Lord spoke to me through Scripture brought me greater peace and intimacy. God and I, our friendship began. As an early riser, faithfully awake at 4:20 a.m., I would get up and read my Bible and listen. One morning it was **Isaiah 55** - "**Come, all you who are thirsty, come...** *“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?*

I met with our Pastor, Fr. Dennis Hughes (now MSGR) and after sharing my story of wanting a “Catholic” Bible Study, he gave me the go ahead with his support but to find someone to do it with me! Yikes! Frazzled, I continued to pray.

That prompted me to go forth with Bible Study at St Timothy. Our parish was just starting out and struggling so a fee was mentioned. NO way, scripture said “without money.” And so, it always was, no fee to learn the love of God! Time to give back to St Timothy parishioners.

It was in bringing communion to the nursing home that I met our connection. I shared with this patient that I was looking for someone with Scripture Study background. Instantly she gave me the name of another friend who visited her weekly, Rita Dennis. Rita already does Bible Study at St. Paul's, she tells me. Ten minutes later, Yup, Rita walks in! Where is God in THAT!!!

After she agreed to help us, I chose a few parishioners and 12 of us met at my house. Now time and dates? I placed a memo in our bulletin, with a sign-up to be returned of how many would be interested in joining Bible Study and what days? It came back **unanimous**. Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. and Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. and so it began. I led this ministry for 10 years. 1991 to 2001-2002. (I left because I was going to be a Nana)

What I loved the most? I loved attending to both morning and evening classes! GIFT! It was knowing how many other people loved God and scripture as much as I did! How we all see God so alive everyday but also in scripture, our intimacy with God through scripture. Our God of the living! One of the things I appreciate in the many years is being a at a different table every year and meeting so many spiritual friends and listening how God spoke to them in the lesson. I am not sure when we had to switch the evening classes from Wednesday to Tuesday night.

I am deeply appreciative to both Bill Lynn and Diane for weekly working so hard nourishing us so well in Scripture. Thank you so very much for your continued dedication and hard work bringing this for us.

I only missed one year of Bible study because of my open- heart surgery.

Then came Jan Kennedy.... Thank you, Jan!

Jan Kennedy

2002-2008

After Brenda's first ten years as founder and leader of Bible Study, and the firm foundation that she established, and after a LONG time of discernment, I was blessed to be handed the reins of overseeing this Ministry. Bill Lynn also came on board at this time to assist with supervision of the Bible Study lessons, to ensure that all was done correctly and according to our Catholic faith. I was in charge of Bible Study for six years, beginning at the property on Ragg Road and transitioning to our present property.

I have been richly blessed by the study of His Word and the many people I have met and become friends with as we studied together. God has been so very good to me, and I am thankful to have been allowed to help this Ministry of His Word to grow and touch so many lives, as well as having the opportunity to spend time myself to learn and to grow in a deeper relationship with Him.

Lori Barhonovich

2008-2013

I joined Bible Study in 1992. I fell in love with The Word! Over time, I would do substitute lectures for Rita and served as table leader. I joined Bill Lynn as coleader in 2008-2013. All three of these opportunities were suggested to me by our founder Brenda Covini. I felt unqualified and unworthy. Watch out when Brenda says “pray about that dear”.....I did at every step! I am most grateful for the experience of serving with so many encouraging brothers and sisters in Christ. Studying the Bible and the Bible Study community have been very important to me in my journey. It has been a privilege to be part of passing on the gift of Bible Study to others.

Sallie Stockdill

2013-2018

Sallie Stockdill co-led Bible Study with Bill Lynn from October 2013-2018. The decision to take the leadership role was influenced by time spent in Cortona, Italy, hearing the Servant Song at Mass. An email came from Lori Barhonovich stating that a newly appointed Deacon was going to take over the leadership responsibilities. The Holy Spirit assured me that this was my opportunity to be God’s “song and servant.”

During this time many members answered the call to be a table leader allowing the AM program to expand from six to nine tables. St. Tim’s also made the decision to become independent from St. Paul’s program which led Bill Lynn and Dianne Alaimo to provide the discussion questions and the study focus for each year.

Dan Holsen

2018-

My first year with Bible Study planning was the study in 2018-2019 Jonah, Daniel & Hosea. I guess the story of Jonah was the motivator to get me to attempt this job. As Jonah did, I thought up all the reasons to dodge the ministry need. I’m too busy with other things, I don’t know enough about the Bible, so I’m not qualified, I don’t want all the additional responsibility. But after a while I realized no one else was going to volunteer so the Lord put this challenge in front of me and He would help me when needed.

What do I find the most enjoyable about Bible Study? All the help and encouragement I get from our group... One person cannot do all the things necessary to keep a group this large going so I have come to appreciate all the help that makes this job so much easier. All the table facilitators, kitchen setup people, snacks brought in each week, group questions written, and updates for our Prayer Board, and others who help all make this group a community.

Finally, hearing and then discussing the Lord’s word makes Bible Study enjoyable and enriching for everyone!

Rita Dennis

1991-2018

With the help of Fr Austin Mullen, Rita had been doing the Classes at St Paul's on Wednesday A.M. and P.M. then did the same readings for us on Tuesday morning and evenings. Consequently, we had the choice of attending one of the 4 classes, it was the same study.

We at St. Timothy will always be ever so grateful for all she did for us for so many years. Rita is now retired from doing Bible Study at both Churches. Please keep her in your prayers.

Dianne Alaimo

2006-

I moved to Florida in 2003 from Ohio. I joined St. Timothy at that point, and immediately signed up for Bible Study. Rita Dennis was doing the lectures and Lori Barhonovich, I believe, was involved in keeping Bible Study on track as our faithful leader. I started as a participant and soon became a small group facilitator. In 2006 I began teaching Theology at St. Leo University. At times, my class load made it difficult to continue to participate in Bible Study. Retirement brought me back as a facilitator and as a lecturer. Bill Lynn and I now share the responsibility of the lectures for Bible Study.

What has been the biggest blessing from Bible Study is to see people coming back year after year. I believe the opportunity to talk and discuss with each other, the message of the Bible is what brings us together. The format of faith sharing and reflection on Sacred Scripture makes this ministry unique. Our Bible Study Ministry combines faith sharing and formation with community and intellectual growth.

Bill Lynn

1996-

The earliest record I can find (on my computer) is the study of Romans in the Spring of 1996. I did some substitute lectures during 1997 for the study of Nehemiah. I think the first time I did a whole series of lectures was in the study of James in a Summer Bible Study class. It appears that in 2003 with the study of John, I began doing the lectures for the evening class on a regular basis. Rita would do the morning lectures and I would do the evening lectures. The questions were all prepared by Rita, reviewed by Nicki Stevens and myself and published for both St. Paul's and St. Tim's.

In 2017, under the guidance of Deacon Peter Burns, our Bible Study began to be completely under the auspices of St. Tim's. In 2018, Dianne Alaimo began writing the questions for St. Timothy we began alternating presenting the lectures.

What I liked and still like is the discipline it imposes on me to really dig in and prepare for the lessons and the lectures. Also, I find that when I am most deeply immersed in the Word, it speaks to me more personally about how I should live my life. It is not just learning about Jesus, it really getting to know Him and how I can more closely imitate Him. I think I am going to try the walking on water thing in my pool.

Interesting aside on my Army career. When there was a really outstanding officer in a unit who always got top tier efficiency ratings, he was referred to as a "water walker."

Our sincere thanks to both Bill & Diane for all the work in preparing our lessons!

Bible Study History

Years	Books
2021-2022	Malachi, Luke
2020 - 2021	Isaiah
2019 - 2020	Acts of the Apostles
2018 - 2019	Jonah, Hosea & Daniel
2017 - 2018	Matthew
2016 - 2017	Romans & James
2015 - 2016	Genesis
2014 - 2015	Hebrews & Revelation
2013 - 2014	John
2012 - 2013	David & the History of Israel
2011 - 2012	Mark, Jude & Letters of Peter 1 & 2
2010 - 2011	Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther
2009 - 2010	Corinthians & Galatians
2008 - 2009	Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy & Joshua
2007 - 2008	Genesis
2006 - 2007	Hebrews & Revelation
2005 - 2006	Luke, Philippians & Jude
2004 - 2005	Acts of the Apostles & Letters of Peter 1 & 2
2003 - 2004	Ecclesiastes, Psalms & Minor Prophets???
2002 - 2003	John
2001 - 2002	Ruth, 1st + 2nd (Samuel, Kings & Chronicles)
2000 - 2001	Matthew
1999 - 2000	Hebrews & Revelation
1998 - 1999	Exodus & Joshua
1997 - 1998	Genesis
1996 - 1997	Psalms & Minor Prophets???
1995 - 1996	Acts of the Apostles & Letters of Paul
1994 - 1995	John
1993 - 1994	Ruth, 1st + 2nd (Samuel, Kings & Chronicles) [Summer James]
1992 - 1993	Matthew [During Summer 1st Letter of John]
1991 - 1992	Genesis